
Interoffice Correspondence

Date: August 12, 1991
To: NL Industries/Taracorp File
From: Joi Ross, PRC
Subject: NL/Taracorp Trip Report
Work Assignment No. C05052

On Tuesday, July 30, 1991, MaryAnn LaFaire, Brad Bradley, and I travelled to Granite City, Illinois, to (1) obtain information for revising the site community relations plan (CRP), (2) conduct a repository audit, (3) find a location for establishing a second information repository, and (4) obtain information on possible public meeting locations.

Information for Revising the CRP

Our first meeting of the day was scheduled for 10 am in the lounge of Granite City Hall. We were to meet with Ginny O'Bear and Tom Candler, Granite City Alderpeople, 5th Ward. As it turned out, three additional people were present -- Dan Brown, Granite City Alderman, 4th Ward, Craig Tarbuff, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the President of the Granite City Homeowners Association.

During the meeting, we listened as the Granite City attendees expressed their concerns about the cleanup plan and EPA in general.

Three main areas of concern were discussed. The first area of concern involved the access agreements. Ginny O'Bear wanted to know what they were and why they were mailed to residents in Madison. Brad Bradley explained the purpose of the access agreements and informed Ms. O'Bear that EPA plans to send out access agreements to Granite City residents by the end of August. Overall, it appeared that community attitudes toward granting EPA property access were less than favorable. The alderpeople requested copies of all correspondence to residents in their respective wards. Also, it was suggested that EPA place an advertisement in the Granite City Journal stating whether EPA representatives would be entering homes and when, so people wouldn't confuse EPA representatives with anyone else.

The second major area of concern dealt with community perceptions of EPA. Generally, feelings toward EPA are unfavorable. The community feels that EPA has not really communicated with them throughout the decision-making process, and that public meetings and other attempts by EPA to communicate with them have been made only out of an obligation to meet federal requirements. One of the attendees said that the relationship between EPA and the community has been damaged, maybe to a point of being unrepairable. Everyone present at the meeting agreed this was an area that needs work.

The third area of concern was the community's need for timely information and, more importantly, their need to be involved in EPA's decisions about the site. Although receiving information about the progress of site activities was mentioned, the attendees were more concerned with being able to voice their concerns and get results from EPA. Everyone present was interested in whether community concerns could have an effect on the ROD -- specifically, they wanted to know if there was a possibility that EPA would reconsider and change the ROD. MaryAnn LaFaire responded that no promises can be made that the ROD will be changed; however, EPA is interested in community concerns and there is a possibility that the ROD will be reconsidered.

After two hours of discussion, we decided to form a committee to meet once a month beginning the first Monday of October to discuss community concerns and EPA's plans for



cleaning up the site. It was agreed that the initial committee would consist of everyone present, with the possibility of adding a few more people who could speak on the behalf of the affected community.

Repository Audit

The repository was well kept and very well organized. A few documents that should have been in the repository were not there. I made a list of information that needs to be sent to the repository. I will obtain this information and mail it to the repository in care of Bob Stack.

Possible Meeting Locations

Our last meeting was with Henry Fletcher, 4th Ward Alderman in Venice. Mr. Fletcher informed us that Venice residents were primarily concerned with the IDPH blood study. Mr. Fletcher was not aware that traces of lead contamination had been detected in Venice; he also expressed some doubt as to whether the site contamination really posed a threat to human health since the slag pile "has been there for years." Mr. Fletcher suggested that EPA clearly define its role and IDPH's role to the Venice community. He suggested two possible locations for public meetings in Venice -- the Lee Wright Homes Center and the Venice City Hall. He also informed us that Venice City Hall would be a good place to house an information repository for Venice residents.

We ended our trip with a brief tour of the City of Venice, Granite City, and the NL/Taracorp site.

cc: MaryAnn LaFaire, EPA WAM
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